

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169936

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE ARE POUCHING YOUR COPIES OF THE NSC MEMO ESTABLISHING THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON US-SOVIET AFFAIRS (ICCUSA) AND THE FIRST ORGANIZING MEMO FROM COCHAIRMEN VEST AND SHULMAN. SOV IS STAFFING AND WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED. NYTIMES STORY CAUGHT US BY SURPRISE. ASSERTION THAT COMMITTEE HAS POLICY MAKING ROLE IS MISLEADING. FUNCTION IS TO MONITOR AND COORDINATE. FORESEE FIRST MEETING IN NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST, WITH SOME TAKING LINE THAT THE COMMITTEE IS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE TO DEAL WITH CRISIS IN RELATIONS, REPRESENTS RISE OF A NEW POWER CENTER IN SOVIET POLICY MAKING, ETC. WE WANT TO WATCH WHAT WE SAY.

2. MANDEL AND HUSBAND LOOK LIKE THE IDEAL IMMEDIATE
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ANSWER TO YOUR CONSULAR PROBLEM. BOTH ARE ANXIOUS TO GO, HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED WITH CONSULAR ASSIGNMENT AND PREPARED TO FOLLOW HER AFTER CONSULAR COURSE. HITCH IS THE PAUL WON'T BUDGE ON HER WITHOUT AN ACCEPTABLE REPLACEMENT. WE ARE TRYING EVERY COMBINATION OF PERSUASION AND PRESSURE, AND YOU WOULD BE WELCOME TO JOIN IN. IN INTERIM WE AREN'T CLOSING ANY POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING GOING AHEAD WITH

SCHEDULED REPLACEMENT FOR PETERSON.

3. IF AND WHEN THE STORY SHOULD BREAK IN THE WESTERN PRESS THAT SHCHARANSKIY HAS BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO US TO HAVE YOUR CONFIRMATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. ARMY REP AND GEN WILSON HAD SESSION JULY 18 WITH SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE ON VISIT OF SOV MILITARY INSTITUTE DELEGATION AND EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS. ATTACHE HAD TO GO BACK FOR MORE INSTRUCTIONS. UNLIKELY YOU WILL GET ANYTHING BEFORE FIRST OF NEXT WEEK.

5. THIS WEEK WE RECEIVED A PILE OF EMBASSY AIRGRAMS FROM APRIL AND MAY WHICH WE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN. APPARENTLY THE AIRGRAM PROCESSORS HERE ARE EVEN SLOWER THAN USUAL. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU SEND US A COPY OF SELECTED AIRGRAMS DIRECTLY, PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT ARE SOMEWHAT PERISHABLE, E.G. REPORTS OF LECTURES, SPECIFIC EVENTS LIKE MAY DAY, COMMENTS OF MFA OR OTHER OFFICIALS. IF YOU SEND THEM TO BILATERAL FOR MEL'S ATTENTION, HE WILL SEE THAT THEY GET TO INTERESTED OFFICES.

6. IN AN ARTICLE ON CONSUMER GOODS IN JULY 20 NY TIMES, MALCOLM BROWNE REFERS TO A "NEWS CONFERENCE" BY SOVIET SOCIAL SCIENTISTS CONCERNING PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD LABOR, PRODUCTIVITY, AND FAMILY PLANNING. INR IS PARTICULARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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INTEREST IN THIS; REPORTS OF NEWS CONFERENCES ON THESE SUBJECTS. BROWNE ALSO REFERS TO PUBLIC OPINION POLLS CONDUCTED BY THESE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU CAN DIG UP ON THIS FROM BROWNE OR LOCAL CONTACTS.

7. RE MOSCOW 10418 (JUST RECEIVED) AGREE THAT PERSONNEL SITUATION IS CRITICAL AND THAT FIDDLING MUST STOP. DO NOT ASSUME FROM PARA ABOVE THAT YOU ARE OUR ONLY CLUB IN MANDEL CASE. WE HOPE TO PUSH IT THRU PANEL IN ANY CASE THIS FRIDAY. SONTAG MATTER SHOULD BE SOLVABLE. VANCE

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